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TERRE HAUTE, IND.
TRIBUNE

E. 29,691

S. 45,206

APR 26 1961

Key Men Under Cloak

So many key men in the Kennedy administration got under the cloak of anonymity these past few days it looked like a tent.

But it makes you punchy when an authoritative source, who won't let his name be used, is contradicted by a high official who can't be named.

It started late last week when reporters began asking why the Cuban invasion failed so miserably.

They talked to one of the most important men around Kennedy. But he didn't want to be identified. So an "authoritative source" was quoted as saying:

1. Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and former Vice President Richard M. Nixon encouraged President Kennedy to go ahead with plans for the invasion.

2. United States intelligence was faulty in its reports on how much armament Fidel Castro had and the likelihood of a hoped-for Cuban uprising.

Pretty soon Andrew Hatcher, Kennedy's assistant press secretary, issued a statement which denied part, but not all, of what the "authoritative source" had said.

Hatcher denied Kennedy and Eisenhower had discussed the invasion before the inauguration. But he didn't deny U. S. intelligence fell on its face.

On Monday a top-ranking official, who said he couldn't be identified by name, told newspaper editors: U. S. intelligence was way off the beam on Cuba. He said:

1. The Cuban underground and U. S. intelligence miscalculated the amount of arms Castro had and the degree of support Cubans would give the invasion.

2. U. S. intelligence was caught short when the French generals revolted in Algeria.

This U. S. intelligence, of course, meant the Central Intelligence Agency, which is America's organization for overseas spying. Allen Dulles heads the agency.